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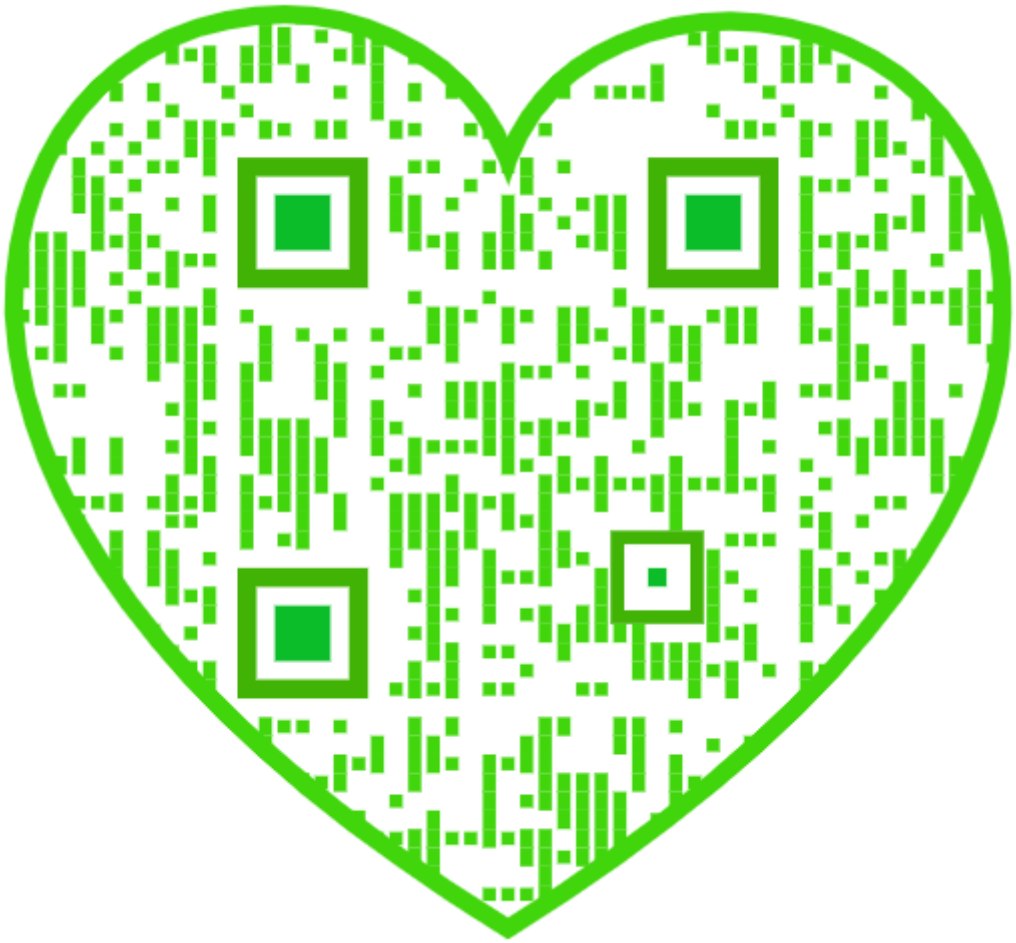

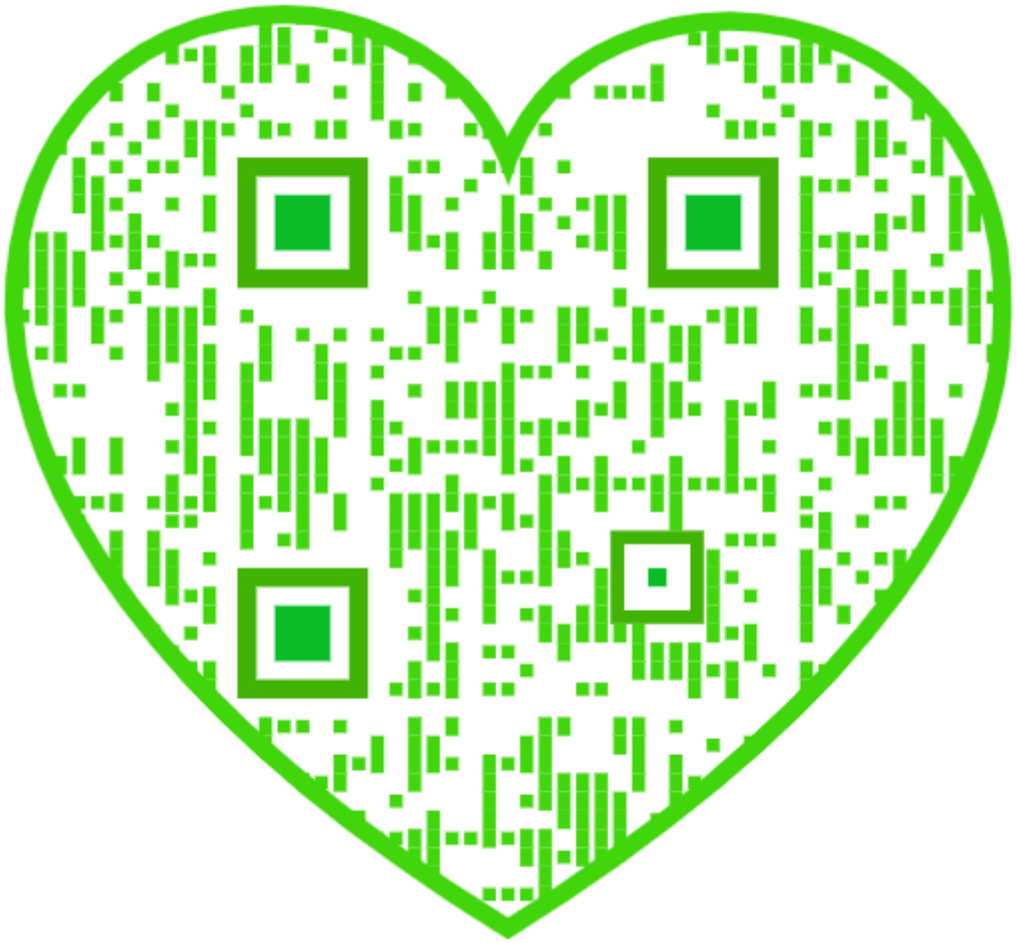

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No. 4.] ONE PENNY.

THE

YOUNG FISHERMAN,

A COMPLETE

GUIDE TO ANGLING,

SHOWING

The TACKLE and BAITS required,

The Rivers, Ponds, &c.

WHERE FISH ARE TO BE FOUND,

The LAWS of ANGLING,

&c. &c.

LONDON:
H. ELLIOT, 475, NEW OXFORD STREET,
And all Booksellers in Town and Country.

Established August, 1856.

THE

WEST-END NEWS.

The Circulation of

THE WEST-END NEWS

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INCLUDING THE

CITY of WESTMINSTER and the BOROUGH of MARYLEBONE,

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PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

Price One Penny. Stamped Twopence.

Printed and Published by WILLIAM HENRY ELLIOT, at the Chief Office, 475, Oxford Street, W. C., and of all Newsagents.

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THE

YOUNG FISHERMAN.

TACKLE FOR ANGLING.

RODS.

The rod should, when put together, taper gradually from the butt end to the top, and be perfectly straight and even.

For general purposes, a rod of about twelve feet in length is the most convenient; but in wide rivers, fifteen and eighteen feet rods are sometimes required. A bamboo rod with several tops of different degrees of strength, is exceedingly well adapted for general purposes, and a cane rod surpasses every other for fine fishing.

A whalebone top is an extremely good, although not an indispensable article; it should have a strong loop to horse-hair whipt on it.

It is a good plan to have a rod for each kind of fishing, as by such an arrangement they can be kept in complete order, and ready for immediate service. The rods should be ringed to guide the line from the reel.

LINES.

The best and most serviceable lines are those made of horse-hair, for such as are composed of hair and silk from retaining the water, soon become rotten. Good lines should be perfectly twisted, round, and even, and in point of colour a light grey, or brown, or white, are perhaps the most useful.

The bottom, or casting line for fly fishing, which is affixed to the line on the reel, must be of gut at the top, and very fine at the dropper, or bottom, and before any flies are made upon it, it should be picked and tried to see that it is of an uniform thickness throughout.

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When fastening the line on the rod, the loop of the line should be passed through the ring at the end of the top joint, carried over the ferrule, and then drawn up to the top again, by which plan the loop will be secured.

It is never worth a lad's while to attempt manufacturing fishing lines, as they may always be purchased more neatly fabricated, and even at a much cheaper rate than he could possibly contrive to make them.

FLOATS.

Floats can always be procured ready-made, of all sizes and every variety of shape.

For small fish and slow streams, porcupine, swan, goose, or Muscovy duck quill floats, will be found the best; and in strong and rapid rivers, or for the larger kinds of fish, cork floats must be used.

WINCHES.

A winch is one of the most useful additions to your angling apparatus which you can procure. With its assistance you may reach parts of a river you could not otherwise attempt.

HOOKS.

Of hooks there are four kinds, the Limerick, the Kendal, the Kirby, and the Sneckbend; which fashion or shape is the best, is a question very difficult to settle, as almost every angler has a predilection in favour of one sort, to the prejudice of all the others.

BAITS.

The ash-grub is found in the rotten bark of a tree which has been felled some time; it is an excellent bait for grayling, chub, dace, or roach, and may be used all the year round. It should be kept in wheat bran.

The brandling, or gilt-tail, is found in old dunghills, tanner's bark, rotten earth, and cows' dung. It is an admirable bait for perch, tench, bream, gudgeon, and indeed for almost any kind of fish.

The cabbage worm, or the caterpillar, is a good bait for chub, dace, roach, or trout.

The locality of the crab-tree worm is indicated by its name. It is a good bait for roach, dace, trout, and chub.

Flag or dock worms inhabit the fibres of flag roots in old pits or ponds. They are excellent baits for tench, bream, bleak, grayling, carp, perch, dace, and roach.

Gentles, or maggots, are bred by hanging up a piece of meat until it putrefies; they should be kept on flesh, and when they have arrived at their full size, a little bran and damp sand may be put in the vessel in which they are immured, for the purpose of scouring them; they will be fit for use in a day or two, and are tempting bait for all kinds of fish. When putting a gentle on the hook, you must insert the hook at one end of it, and bring it out at the other, and then draw the gentle back until it completely covers the point of the hook.

In order to scour and preserve worms, you must procure some very fresh moss, wash away all particles of earth from it, and squeeze it, but not too dry; then put it into a jar and press it closely down, and place worms upon it.

Miller's thumbs, bleaks, minnows, dace, gudgeons, loaches, sticklebacks, smelts, and roach, are used as baits for some of the larger fish.

Grasshoppers are good baits during June, July, and August, for roach, grayling, chub, and trout; their legs and wings must be taken off before they are put on the hook.

Salmon spawn is an excellent bait for trout and chub; you may purchase it at the shops ready for use.

GROUND BAIT.

Ground baiting is a most essential part of angling and ought never to be omitted, as success in bottom or float fishing cannot be expected, unless the proper means for drawing the fish together are resorted to.

For barbel, it is necessary to make the lumps of ground bait large in proportion to the strength of the current in which you fish.

For carp, tench, eels, perch, and bream, fresh grains will be found very serviceable. They must be very fresh, for if they have the slightest taint of sourness, the fish will not touch them.

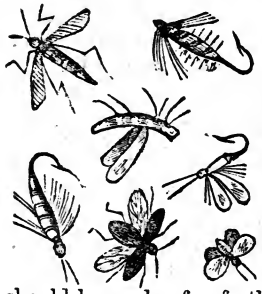
PASTE BAITS.

When working up paste baits, be particularly careful to have clean hands, and knead your pastes thoroughly, so that all the materials may be well incorporated.

Sheeps' blood and saffron make a good paste for roach, bleak, &c.

Paste baits are not at all adapted for swift, running streams, but for quiet brooks, ponds, or very still rivers.

ARTIFICIAL FLIES.



There are upwards of a hundred different kinds of flies suitable to this species of angling, a full description of the method of making each, would far exceed our limits; we shall, therefore, describe some of the most usual only. The cow-dung fly may be used from the 1st of April, and will kill till September. Its wing should be made of a feather of the land-rail, its body of yellow camlet mingled with a little fur, and its legs of ginger blue.

The violet fly is used in April; it is made of light dun-coloured bear's hair mixed with violet stuff, and winged with the grey feather of a mallard.

The green drake, or May fly, is, perhaps, the best that can be procured for trout fishing. Its wings should be made of the light feather of the grey drake, dyed lemon-colour, its body of yellow-coloured mohair, neatly ribbed with green silk, head of a peacock's harl, and its tail of three long hairs from a sable muff.

The yellow sally is an approved fly from the early part of May to the end of June. Its body must be made of yellow unravelled worsted, mixed with some fur from a hare's ear, and its wings of a hackle dyed yellow.

The purple fly is made of purple wool mixed with light brown bear's hair, and dubbed with purple silk, is useful during June and July.

The red ant's wings must be made of light feather

from a starling, its body of a peacock's harl, and its legs of a ginger coloured hackle, and be careful to make its body thick at the end. This fly first appears in June, and continues to August; it is a capital killer from eleven in the morning till six in the evening.

The late badger-fly is also serviceable in August; it is made of black badger's hair whipped with red silk, and winged with a darkish grey mallard's feather.

The willow fly appears in September, and is the best bait during that month and the remainder of the season.

RIVERS, PONDS, and CANALS, in the VICINITY OF LONDON.

The *Thames* contains all kinds of fish; being under the jurisdiction of the Government as far as Staines, up to that place no one is allowed to fish (under a penalty of twenty pounds), during the months of March, April, and May, as most fresh-water fish cast their spawn during those months.

From *Staines* to *Battersea*, various parts of the river are staked out, and bailiffs appointed to see that the fish are not taken by improper means. The angler may, therefore, be certain of meeting with plenty of sport in those places.

At *Isleworth*, there is tolerably good fishing, especially for dace, with the fly.

Twickenham preserve, one mile above Richmond, is opposite Pope's Villa, where there is tolerably good barbel and dace fishing. One mile and a half beyond Twickenham is *Teddington*, where you meet with the first lock and weir, and is considered the place for a day's barbel fishing. Great quantities are taken if you are careful in getting the pitch—if you do not you might as well leave barbel fishing alone at Teddington. There is very good roach, dace, and gudgeon fishing. A mile and a half beyond, is

Kingston, and celebrated for the large barbel caught near the old bridge, but its removal has somewhat injured the fishing, though good sport may still be had for barbel, roach, perch, and dace. A short distance only, and we come to

Thames Ditton, a deservedly favourite resort of the

London Anglers, abounding with barbel, perch, chub, roach, dace, and gudgeon. We next come to

Hampton Court, a delighful station, with the additional attraction of Hampton Court Palace. The preserve extends 270 yards from Weir Moulsey Lock to Lower Head Pole; the Angler will here find barbel, fine perch, roach, and dace, either from the shore or in a punt; or, should the weather be unfavourable for angling visit the Palace. About a mile up the river is

Hampton, where the preserve is 950 yards long, being from the westward of Garrick Lawn to the Tumbling Bay. One of the best pitches is opposite Garrick's Summer-House. The Angler will find plenty of pike, perch, barbel, roach, and dace, and many perch are taken while gudgeon fishing in the Scowers.

In the *New River*, which is free for any person to try his fortune in, from its source near Ware in Hertfordshire, to Islington, very many fine fish may be found.

The *Lea River*, which runs into the Thames at Poplar, abounds with fish. Some parts of the river are preserved, and for permission to angle there, you must pay a certain sum annually.

The *Lea.*—At *Homerton*, the river is rented and preserved by the proprietor of the White House, and is three miles from London; the yearly subscription is 10s. 6d. or a day ticket may be had for a shilling; jack, barbel, chub, perch, roach, dace, and gudgeon are numerous.

The *Roding*, which runs into the Thames at Barking, produces an abundance of eels, chub, perch, &c. There are many deep holes and favourable spots for angling in this river at Abridge, Woodford, Loughton, Ilford, Wanstead, and Barking.

In the *Mole*, which empties itself into the Thames at East Moulsey, in Surrey, many good fish may be found. The angler will find the best sport near Esher, Leatherhead, Cobham, Dorking, or Ryegate.

In the *Wandle*, at Mitcham, Merton, Carshalton, and Wandsworth, fine trout, &c. may be taken.

On Chiselhurst common, in Kent, about twelve miles from London, are some ponds stored with carp and tench, &c. &c. The large pond near the King's Head Inn, is the best.

A mile to the east of Shooter's hill, in Kent, there

are some ponds on a common near the road side, containing carp, tench, &c. These ponds are free to all anglers.

The *Camberwell Canal* contains pike, roach, carp, perch, and eels.

At Stanmore, in Middlesex, ten miles from London, there are two or three ponds on the common, in which perch, tench, &c. may be found. Between these ponds and Stanmore Priory, about a mile distant, is a very fine piece of water called the *Long Pond*, which contains pike, &c.

At *Sunbury*, on the Middlesex side of the Thames, some large trout are taken, and there is good gudgeon fishing on the Scowers. The preserve extends nearly 700 yards.

The *Paddington Canal* has chub, eels, gudgeons, perch, roach, and pike.

The river *Wey*, in Surrey, which joins the Thames near Oatlands park, contains barbel, ruffe, dace, gudgeons, carp, pike, and roach.

At *Stoke Newington*, the water is well stored with fish; and permission to angle is only to be obtained through the Directors of the New River Company.

Dagenham Breach, in Essex, is preserved for angling. The subscription is one guinea and a half per annum. It is well stored with carp, pike, bream, eels, &c.

Cheshunt abounds with fine pike, perch, &c. Permission to fish can only be obtained through a director of the New River Company, who is privileged to give an order (not transferable) for the season.

The *Lake* in the gardens of Hornsey-wood house contains perch, tench, roach, &c. and in which persons taking refreshment at the tavern are allowed to fish.

The *Ravensbourne*, in Kent, contains good roach, chub, gudgeons, perch, trout, and dace.

In the *Colne*, near Uxbridge and Denham, fine trout abound; but as the river is rented, you must obtain leave to fish, and pay so much per pound for what you catch.

At *Kingsbury*, five miles from Hyde Park, there is fine jack, perch, and roach fishing, both in the river Brent and the Reservoir. The yearly subscription for the latter is one guinea, but day-tickets are granted. All particulars can be obtained of Mr. Warner, at the Welsh Harp, Kingsbury.

The *Croydon* and *Regent's Canal* afford very good fishing.

The *Ornamental Water* in the Regent's Park is now open to the public, where great quantities of small perch, gudgeon, &c., are taken, also a few very fine carp.

The *Serpentine*, in Hyde Park, is also free, where there is sometimes very good sport. The water abounds in large carp and fine eels.

On Hampstead heath and Clapham common, are some free ponds, containing perch, carp, and a few other fish.

The *Surrey Canal Dock* at Rotherhithe, contains plenty of good jack, roach, bream, perch, and eels. It is a subscription water, and the terms are a guinea annually, or a shilling for each day's sport.

In the *Commercial Docks* at Rotherhithe, bream, eels, &c. abound. You must procure an admission ticket from a director, before you can fish in this water.

HINTS TO ANGLERS.

It is generally understood that when two or three persons are angling in the same stream, there shall be a distance of thirty yards between them.

If the learner wishes to become a complete angler, he must use fine tackle, as the skill and care which such tackle requires will soon make him master of the art.

When the tackle breaks, the angler must not mourn over the accident, but do his best to remedy it, by speedily repairing the damage, and resuming his sport.

The angler should wear strong boots or shoes, and keep his feet dry; and if he values his health, he will abstain from drinking water out of rivers or ponds when he is in a perspiration, or feels parched with thirst.

If the weather is very cold, or winds sets very strongly from the east or north, the angler will meet with but little sport.

On no account have metal buttons.

Never be in too great haste in preparing your tackle previously to angling.

Take time in plumbing your depth, and do it accurately, and with as little disturbance to the water as possible.

When you have hooked a heavy fish, use your landing net.

Keep as far from the water as you can.

Take care your shadow is not thrown on the water.

When you lose a fish after playing him, throw in ground-bait directly.

Avoid sitting on the grass.

Prefer angling at mill tails, in deep water, under overhanging banks, and by the entrance of small streams.

Mark the situation where you have good sport.

Varnish floats and all whippings after use.

Dry your lines after use to prevent rotting.

Play your fish well before landing.

Heavy showers of rain or hail, and thunder storms, are likewise extremely prejudicial to his amusement, and as in the winter months, few opportunities are afforded for the exercise of his talents out of doors, he should, while snugly screened from the pinching blasts, attend to all the little repairs which may be necessary to his various appurtenances.

> His hooks, his lines, peruse with careful eye,
> Increase his tackle, and his rod re-tie.
>
> GAY.

SALT WATER ANGLING.

Many kinds of fish may be caught at the mouths of rivers when the tide is running up.

Plaice, whiting, small cod, turbot, and haddock, will readily seize a bait, and may be angled for from piers and projecting rocks; indeed, even mackerel may be taken from similar places, during the time they are in season.

For this kind of angling, a good strong rod, stout, well leaded line, large cork float, and good sized hook, are requisite.

When fishing at the mouths of rivers with gentles, well-scoured red worms, or shrimps, as baits, you may take whitings, eels, flat fish, small cod fish, and haddock. When fishing from a pier, or rock, or a boat, at a short distance from land, two or three red worms, a small raw crab, or a muscle, or a little bit of whiting will prove very serviceable baits.

Angling in salt water is not half so agreeable as in fresh water, nor does it require near so much tact and management of the tackle and baits as fresh water fishng.

LAWS RELATING TO ANGLING.

By an Act of Parliament for consolidating and amending the Laws relative to Larceny, &c., passed in the 7th and 8th George IV., it is provided "That if any person shall unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy any fish in any water which shall run through or be in any land adjoining or belonging to the dwelling house of any person being the owner of such water, or having a right of fishery therein, every such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and being convicted thereof, shall be punished accordingly; and if any person shall unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy, any fish in any water not being such as aforesaid, but which shall be private property, or in which there shall be any private right of fishery, every such offender being convicted thereof before a Justice of the Peace, shall forfeit and pay, over and above the value of the fish taken or destroyed, (if any) such sum of money not exceeding five pounds, as to the Justice shall seem meet; provided always that nothing herein before contained shall extend to any person angling in the day-time; but if any shall by angling in the day-time, unlawfully and wilfully take or destroy, or attempt to take or destroy, any fish in any such water as first mentioned, he shall on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds; and if in any such water as last mentioned, he shall, on the like conviction, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding two pounds, as to the Justices shall seem meet; and if the boundary of any parish, township, or village, shall happen to be in, or by the side of any such water as is herein before mentioned, it shall be sufficient to prove that the offence was committed, either in the parish, township, or village named in the indictment or information, or in any parish, township, or village adjoining thereto.

"And be it enacted, that if any person shall at any time be found fishing against the provisions of this Act,

it shall be lawful for the owner of the ground, water, or fishery, where such offender shall be so found, his servants, or any persons authorised by him, to demand from such offender any rods, lines, hooks, nets, or other implements for taking or destroying fish, which shall then be in his possession; and in case such offender shall not immediately deliver up the same, to seize and take them from him for the use of such owner; provided always, that any person angling in the day time against the provisions of this Act, from whom any implements used by anglers shall be taken, or by whom the same shall be delivered up as aforesaid, shall by the taking or delivery thereof, be exempted from the payment of any damages or penalty for such angling."

And by another Act passed in the 7th and 8th George IV., it is provided, that "if any person shall maliciously in any way destroy the dam of a fish pond or other water, being private property, with intent to take or destroy any of the fish in the same; or shall maliciously put any noxious material in any such pond or water with intent to destroy the fish therein, such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and be punished accordingly."

The provisions of these Acts do not extend to Scotland and Ireland.

☞ For a more detailed Guide to Angling, and a full description of the different kinds of Fresh and Salt Water Fish, Guide to Bottom Fishing, &c. &c,, the reader is referred to ELLIOT'S COMPLETE ANGLER, price Twopence, containing 17 Illustrations, and every requisite information to enable any person to become an expert Angler.

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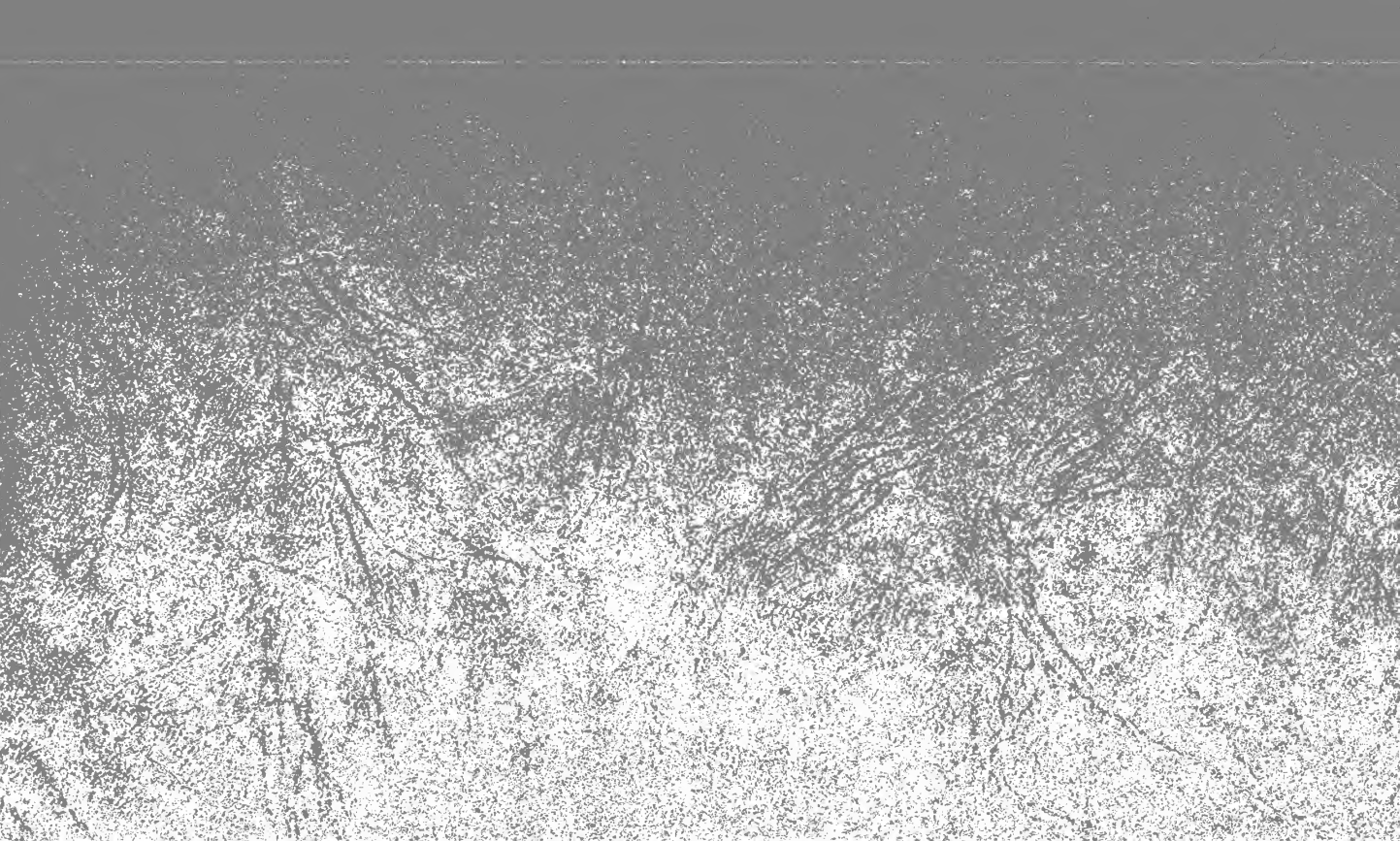
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